

Economic Development Manager

CITY OF MOORPARK, CALIFORNIA



The City of Moorpark

The City of Moorpark is located in southeastern Ventura County near Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks, approximately an hour from both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. Nestled against the surrounding hills and open space, Moorpark combines the character and quality of life of a close-knit community with convenient access to the employment, cultural, recreational, and economic opportunities of Southern California. The community offers attractive residential neighborhoods, 19 City parks, extensive hiking and equestrian trails, cultural and recreational amenities, shopping and dining, and convenient Metrolink and Amtrak service.

Moorpark is particularly recognized for its safe neighborhoods and outstanding educational opportunities. SafeWise ranked Moorpark the fourth safest city in California for 2026, based on its analysis of the most recent available FBI violent and property crime data. Moorpark College is a nationally recognized institution and was one of only 10 finalists nationwide for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The College is also home to America's Teaching Zoo, one of only two teaching zoos in the nation, and was recently ranked seventh among California colleges for student return on investment.

Moorpark also has a strong and evolving employment base, with particular strengths in aerospace, defense, advanced manufacturing, technology, and financial services. In 2026, AeroVironment announced a planned $100 million investment in a new approximately 20-acre Moorpark campus that will consolidate teams and capabilities from five Southern California locations and support research, engineering, design, prototyping, and production. Together with established employers such as Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense, Laritech, Lifetech Resources, Pentair, Quantum Systems, Bombardier and other advanced manufacturing and technology companies, this investment is strengthening Moorpark's position as an important center for aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing within Ventura County.

With a population of approximately 36,000, Moorpark offers a distinctive combination of small-town character, economic opportunity, excellent educational institutions, public safety, and access to the greater Southern California region making it an exceptional place to live, work, invest, and do business.

The Organization

The City of Moorpark was incorporated in 1983 as a general law city and operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor, who is separately elected, serves a two-year term, and the four City Council members are elected by district and serve staggered four-year terms. The City consists of five departments: City Manager's Office; Finance; Community Development; Parks, Recreation and Community Services; and Public Works. Police and fire services are contracted with Ventura County. The organization has a culture of innovation, trust, equity, and inclusion and values leadership and professional development among staff. The Economic Development Manager will work within the City Manager's Office and closely with all other departments to enhance the business environment in Moorpark. The City Manager's Office is comprised of functional divisions including City Clerk, Human Resources, Public Information, and Legislative Affairs.

Economic Development in Moorpark

Economic development is a significant City priority, and Moorpark is entering an exciting period of investment and opportunity. The City Council adopted Moorpark's first 2025-2029 Economic Development Strategic Plan in 2024, providing a five-year roadmap for strengthening the local economy, attracting private investment, creating employment opportunities, supporting existing businesses, and positioning Moorpark as a distinctive regional destination. The Plan emphasizes expanding dining, shopping, hotel, and entertainment opportunities; attracting high-quality jobs and advanced manufacturing; strengthening existing

businesses and community assets; and promoting Moorpark's unique character throughout the region.

A particular focus is Downtown High Street, one of the community's most important economic and cultural assets. Recent and ongoing investments in Downtown include construction of the High Street Depot – the City's first mixed-use development, completion of streetscape and public parking improvements, construction of a new 17,272-square-foot City Library, establishment of an Entertainment Zone – the first in Ventura County, and a comprehensive update of the Downtown Specific Plan. Together, these efforts are intended to create a more active, walkable, connected, and economically vibrant Downtown while preserving its small-town character.

Beyond Downtown, Moorpark continues to see significant residential, commercial, and employment-generating development. This includes more than 2,000 housing units planned, entitled, or under construction. The City is focused on leveraging these investments to expand its economic base, attract new businesses and industries, create jobs, and stregthen Moorpark's long-term fiscal and economic vitality.

The Position

While the City of Moorpark believes that every employee plays a role in economic development, the City Council has made strengthening the local economy and expanding economic opportunity a significant community priority. The Economic Development Manager will have an opportunity to help shape Moorpark's continued growth by leading the City's economic development programs and advancing projects from strategy through implementation.



Reporting directly to the City Manager, the Economic Development Manager will lead a broad range of activities including business retention, expansion, and attraction; entrepreneurship support; property acquisition and disposition; negotiation and management of real estate transactions and development agreements; economic development and tax increment financing; workforce development and job creation; marketing and tourism initiatives; and continued investment in Downtown High Street.

Just as important, this is a people-oriented and highly visible position. The successful candidate will enjoy getting out into the community, meeting with business owners, entrepreneurs, developers, commercial property owners, brokers, and investors; conducting business visits and site tours; attending community and networking events; and building strong partnerships with the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce, Moorpark College, regional economic development organizations, and other public and private partners.

The Economic Development Manager will be expected to combine strong technical and financial skills with creativity, initiative, and excellent customer service. The position is well suited for someone who enjoys solving problems, bringing people together, identifying opportunities, and helping businesses and development projects move forward. The Manager will also lead implementation of the City's economic development goals, manage the division's budget and resources, and work collaboratively across City departments to deliver results for the community. The Economic Development Team also includes a Management Analyst who directly reports to the Economic Development Manager and serves as dedicated support staff.



The Ideal Candidate

The City seeks an experienced, creative, innovative, and solutions-oriented economic development professional who combines strong relationship-building skills with the technical and financial capabilities necessary to advance complex projects.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Excellent communication, negotiation, customer service, and presentation skills
- Strong business attraction, retention, and expansion skills
- Experience developing and growing entrepreneurship programs, particularly with local residents and students at the college and high school levels
- The ability to lead significant projects, build productive partnerships, and successfully move intiatives from strategy to implementation.
- Demonstrated experience in real estate development and real estate finance
- Experience negotiating or administering property acquisitions and dispositions, real estate transactions, development agreements, contracts, or public-private partnerships
- Familiarity with tax increment financing, EIFDs, infrastructure financing, grants, incentives, and other economic development tools
- Ability to evaluate financial information, development proposals, market conditions, and complex projects and translate that analysis into practical recommendations

• Knowledge of workforce development and demonstrated ability to work with government agencies, nonprofits, academia, and businesses to develop job training programs

• Demonstrated experience leading marketing and tourism initiatives, including managing public art programs, creating digital and social media, developing website content and printed materials, and organizing special events

• Experience in graphic design software is highly desirable

• Experience working effectively with elected officials, developers, property owners, brokers, investors, financial institutions, businesses, and public agencies

Experience

A minimum of five years of increasingly responsible experience in economic development, programs, projects, and activities, including two years of supervisory responsibility. Experience working with or for a public agency is highly desirable.

Education

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in public or business administration, urban planning, finance, economics, real estate, marketing, or a related field. A Master's degree is desirable.

License/Certification

An appropriate valid California driver's license is required. Certification as a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) or Accredited California Economic Developer (ACE) is highly desirable.

Compensation & Benefits

The salary for this overtime-exempt position is $120,265.60 – $161,782.40 annually, with appointment within the range based on the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate. The position is eligible for an annual 5% merit increase in accordance with the City's Personnel Rules.

The City of Moorpark offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

Retirement

• CalPERS Classic Members: 2% @ 55 formula; City pays 7% of base salary toward the employee contribution
• PEPRA Members: 2% @ 62 formula; employee pays 7.75% of salary toward the employee contribution

Deferred Compensation

• City contribution equal to 2% of base salary

Medical, Dental, Vision, Life & Disability

• CalPERS medical coverage, with City contributions toward monthly premiums; employee coverage is up to 90% City-paid and most plans also provide 100% City-paid dependent coverage, depending on the plan selected
• Up to $300 per month medical cash-out, where applicable
• Dental insurance – 100% City-paid for employee and eligible dependents
• Vision insurance – 100% City-paid for employee and eligible dependents
• $75,000 term life insurance paid by the City
• City-paid short- and long-term disability insurance
• Voluntary employee-paid supplemental life insurance

Leave & Holidays

• 22 to 32 days of annual leave per year
• 68 hours of administrative leave per year
• 11.5 paid legal holidays per calendar year
• Paid winter break between December 25 and January 1

Additional Benefits

• $150 monthly car allowance
• 9/80 work schedule
• Flexible Spending Plan
• Employee Assistance Program
• $12,000 lifetime tuition reimbursement





APPLY

Apply online at
www.moorparkca.gov/jobs

This is a continuous recruitment and may close at any time.
First review of applications: November 2, 2026.

Prompt application submission before the first review is encouraged.